



TRAILBLAZERS OF AMERICA

PragerU



DAVY CROCKETT



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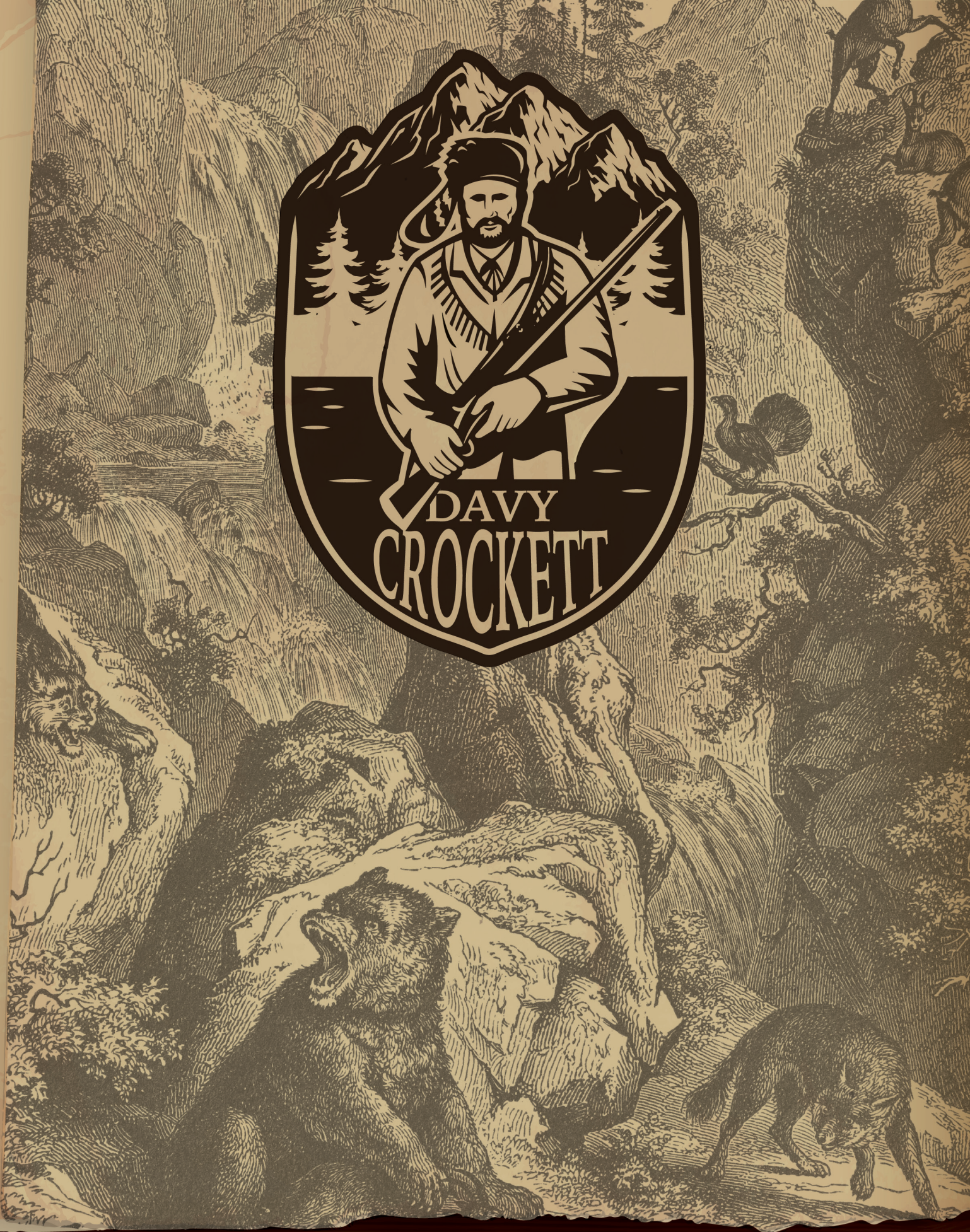
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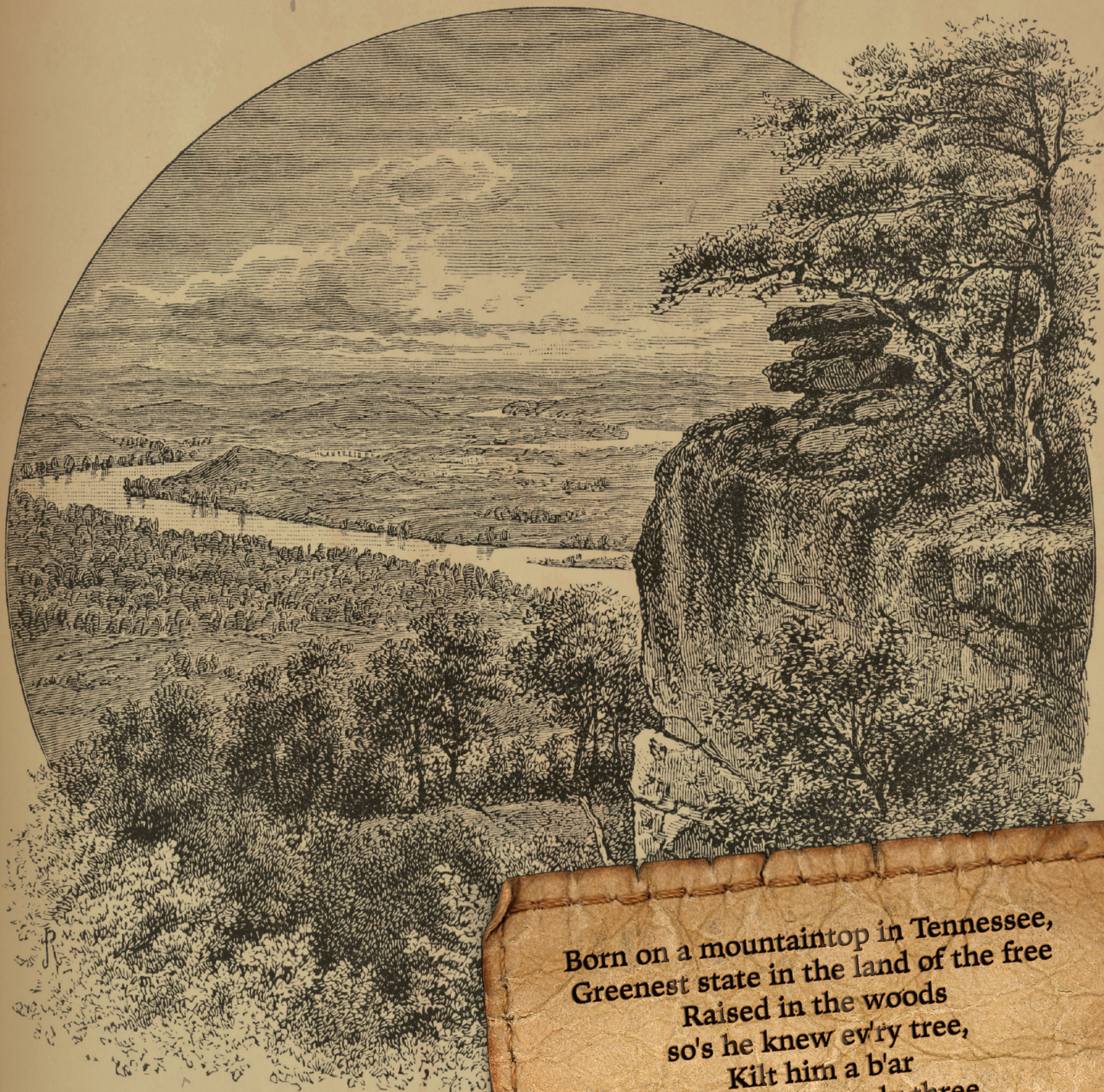
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Born on a mountaintop in Tennessee,
Greenest state in the land of the free
Raised in the woods
so's he knew ev'ry tree,
Kilt him a b'ar
when he was only three
Davy, Davy Crockett,
king of the wild frontier

-From "The Ballad of Davy Crockett."
music by George Burns and lyrics by Thomas Blackburn

Homesick

Near Rockbridge, Virginia, winter of 1798

Davy shivered in the cold. The blanket of snow was already up to his knees, and the thick falling flakes made it difficult to see what was ahead of him. With every step, the 13-year-old could feel the icy moisture seeping through his shoes and clothes.

I don't have much time, he thought, his panic rising. I'm going to freeze if I don't make it to the pass.

He'd left his master's house maybe an hour or two ago, and Davy knew he had come too far to turn back. It wasn't that Mr. Siler had overworked him or been cruel, but he had pressured Davy to stay and not return to his family. The job Davy promised to finish had been completed, and this was his chance to escape and get home.

Earlier in the day, a group of wagons had passed by the Silers' farm, and the riders stopped to chat. Remarkably, one of the drivers, a Mr. Dunn, knew Davy's father, and he said their journey was going to take them past the Crockett family tavern. Davy told the man about his situation with the Silers and how badly he wanted to go home. The man said they'd be camping at the pass and leaving at daybreak. They wouldn't wait a second, but there was room for Davy if he could find them before they left.

Davy ached from all the shivering, but the thought of seeing his family and sitting by a warm fire in the tavern was stronger than the pain. *Keep going. You gotta make it.*

He put one foot in front of the other. *Crunch, crunch, crunch.* The road was covered the same as everything else, but it cut an unmistakable path through the trees. Davy followed it until...



There! Wagons, horses, and people loading their supplies. Mr. Dunn, his father's friend, waved him over. "Come here, boy!"

Davy's legs felt numb, but he forced himself to run the last stretch to freedom. A blanket was wrapped around his shoulders, and Mr. Dunn offered him breakfast.

It was almost daylight. Davy looked back, just once, and saw no trace of his trail. The snow had already filled his footprints. Relief washed over him, and he imagined his family waiting for him. *Soon, he promised. I'll be back.*

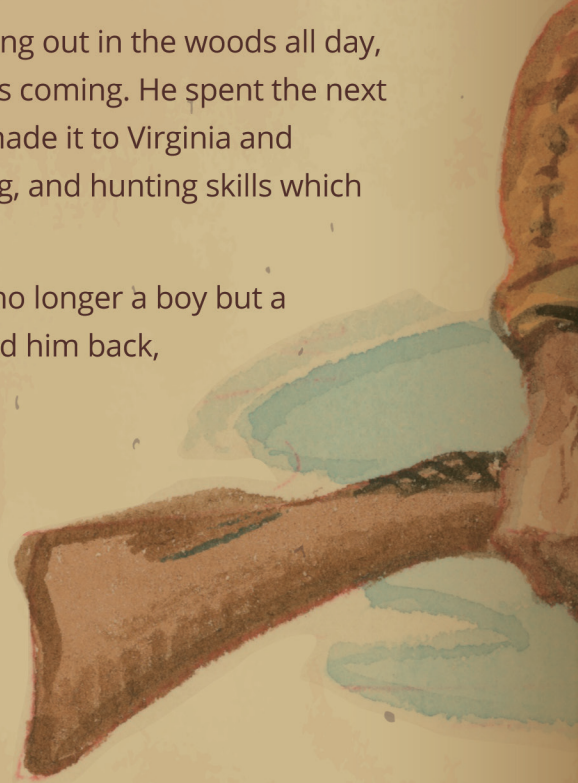
Meet Davy Crockett

The legendary folk hero, remembered as Davy Crockett, was born as David Crockett on August 17, 1786. He was indeed born in Tennessee, though he likely didn't kill a bear when he was only three. Davy grew up in a poor family and had eight other siblings. His grandmother and grandfather Crockett had been killed by Indians before he was born, and his father had fought for American independence. With money tight, when Davy was about 12, his father hired him out to a man named Jacob Siler, who needed help driving his cattle from Tennessee to Virginia.

After the job was done, Mr. Siler pressured Davy to stay, and he was too afraid to disobey. But after several weeks, the boy was homesick and made his daring escape during a snowstorm to get back to his father's tavern. Thanks to Mr. Dunn, Davy did make it home, but it wasn't long before the restless boy was on the move again.

When his father found out he was skipping school and hiding out in the woods all day, Davy ran away to avoid the harsh punishment he knew was coming. He spent the next few years roaming the state, working odd jobs, and even made it to Virginia and Maryland. During this time, he honed his scouting, shooting, and hunting skills which would later make him famous.

At around 16 years old, Davy returned to his family again, no longer a boy but a young man. They barely recognized him but gladly accepted him back, and he worked hard and helped his father get out of debt.



In 1806, Davy married Polly Finley, and they would have three children together. The young family's homestead was in Franklin County, Tennessee, but was named "Kentuck." Life was good, and Davy cared deeply for his family and farm. So, in 1813, when nearby settlers were massacred by violent Indians, he volunteered as a soldier in the **Creek War**.



A Nation at War

The War of 1812 was a military conflict fought over North American land. At the time, territory ownership was divided between the United States and Old World European powers Great Britain and Spain. America had expanded its borders and grown to 18 states, but thanks to the freedom it provided its citizens, the young nation's population was exploding, and more land was desired. Britain controlled lands to the north and west, and the Spanish controlled lands to the south and west, but despite some forts, trading posts, and some towns around the edges, European-controlled territories held a tiny amount of people compared to their massive size. These lands were lightly populated, but they weren't empty.

As they had for centuries, Indian tribes freely roamed the British and Spanish-held regions of North America. When border wars broke out between the Americans, British, and Spanish, the Indians were caught in the middle, and different tribes began choosing sides. Indians who hoped to maintain their traditional ways of living mostly made alliances with the Europeans and agreed to fight against the Americans. However, many Indians recognized the young nation's growing power. They understood there was no way of stopping its rapidly growing population and allied with the United States.

Many Indian tribes were split over whether to support the Americans or the Europeans. One example was the **Creek tribe**, who lived in present-day Alabama and Georgia.

With American settlers encroaching on their territories, the Creek were divided over whether to embrace the United States and its culture, or resist its expansion and attempt to hold onto traditional ways. The division resulted in a violent civil war within the tribe, and one militant faction of the tribe called the **Red Sticks** escalated tensions by attacking the American-controlled **Fort Mims** in Alabama.



The attack on Fort Mims was unexpected, vicious, and brutal. The Red Sticks destroyed the fort, and hundreds were ruthlessly killed. Among the victims were not just American women and children but also fellow Creek people who were friendly with the U.S. Of those killed, approximately 250 were **scalped**, and over 100 women, children, and black slaves were taken as prisoners by the Red Sticks.

The attack on Fort Mims, and especially its brutality, sent shockwaves throughout the United States, stirring the nation to respond. At the time, most of the U.S. military was fighting against the British and their Indian allies in the north, but in response to the Fort Mims massacre, American troops led by General Andrew Jackson were sent south to fight the Red Sticks. To assist Jackson's troops, a **militia** of Tennessee volunteers formed, and among them was Davy Crockett. His wife begged him not to go, but Davy felt it was his duty to protect his family, his community, and America.

*“The truth is, my dander was up,
and nothing but war could bring
it right again.” -David Crockett*



Scouting the Enemy

Near Creek Territory, present-day Alabama, 1813

"Sir, the Red Sticks are on the move, and they're heading for General Jackson," Davy explained to the colonel.

"Thank you for the report. That'll be all for now, Crockett," Colonel Coffee said calmly without looking up from his paperwork.

The colonel was dismissing him. *I can't believe this!* Davy clenched his fists and tried to keep his tone respectful. "Sir, what are we going to do about it?"

Colonel Coffee's head raised sharply, his eyes set ablaze. "How dare you question me?" he asked rhetorically. "We'll wait until we hear from Major Gibson. We need more information."

More information? What more does he need? Davy fumed. The colonel had chosen him to go with Major Gibson and his men to serve as a guide. *Why doesn't he trust me?* While scouting out some enemy territory, Davy had been separated from the rest, and he suspected they were dead. The peaceful Indian villages they had come across on their scouting trip were abandoned, with the fires still burning. Red Sticks were near, and Davy sensed where they were heading.

Sitting here and waiting could cost lives.

Davy left Colonel Coffee's tent before he said something he'd regret. That night, he slept with his flintlock rifle loaded and under his arm.

In the morning, Davy awoke to a loud commotion. With gun in hand, he bolted out of his tent and headed towards a group of soldiers who were gathered around Colonel Coffee's tent. It was Major Gibson and his men.

As Davy approached the gathering, Colonel Coffee turned to address the camp. "Major Gibson has informed me that the Red Sticks are headed towards General Jackson and his men."

So he believed the Major but not me, Davy thought bitterly. *Just because I'm not an officer.* It hurt more than he wanted to admit. He'd proven himself time and again, scouting and hunting for the militia, but that wasn't enough for the colonel.

What Davy loved most about America was that it was a place where ability and knowledge were supposed to matter more than rank. He would not forget his encounter with Colonel Coffee. While he understood the importance of rank within the military, he knew then that he wanted to be a voice for those not heard.





AMERICA

IN THE TIME OF

DAVY CROCKETT



From Soldier to Politician

Following his scouting mission, Davy's regiment was able to meet up with General Andrew Jackson and join his troops fighting the Red Sticks. Davy saw action in the **Battle of Tallushatchee**, which was retaliation for the tragedy at Fort Mims. He also fought in the **Battle of Talladega**, where General Jackson and the U.S. Army rescued their Creek allies from the attacking Red Sticks. Roughly 150 American-friendly Creek Indians had been surrounded at Fort Leslie by 700 Red Sticks. Crockett was among approximately 1,200 infantrymen under Jackson's command. They arrived before the Red Sticks attacked, and the American military routed their Indian opponents. By the end of the battle, Jackson lost only 15 men, and roughly 300 Red Sticks were dead.

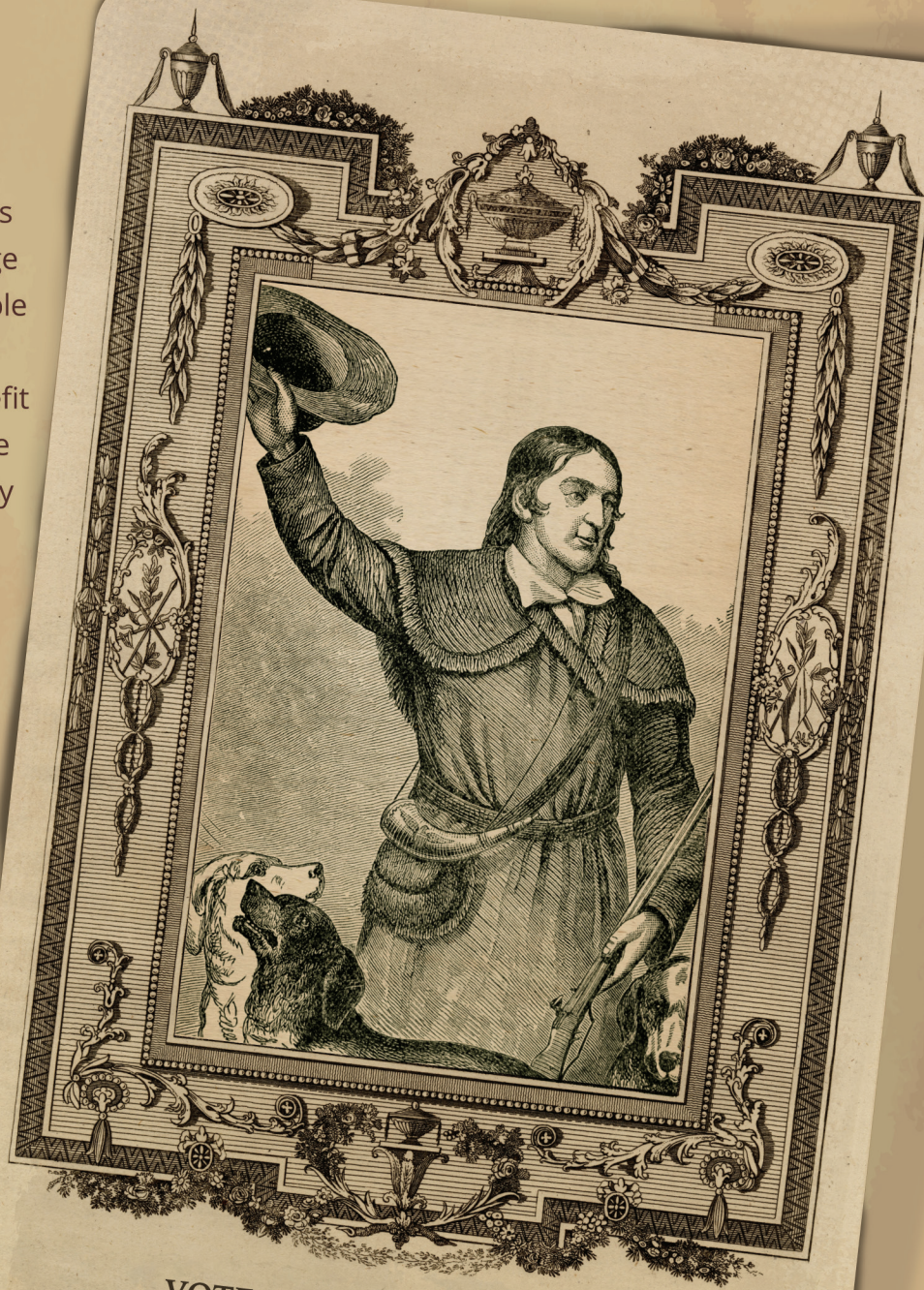
The Creek War ended with American victory, and Davy's volunteer service came to an end. He returned home to his family for a time, but since the greater War of 1812 continued, Crockett reenlisted and was sent to rejoin General Jackson who was fighting in Spanish-controlled Florida. Jackson and his men drove the British and Spanish out, and Davy was sent into the Florida swamps to find any remaining Red Sticks and their allies who supported the British.

With major American victories in Baltimore and New Orleans, the war ended, and so did Davy's military service. But the frontiersman's lifelong restlessness remained, so he decided to take on a new fight: politics.

Beginning in 1821, Davy began a 15-year period of winning and losing political races. His collective time in office amounted to 10 years in the Tennessee Legislature or the House of Representatives. During his time in political office, Davy took a strong interest in protecting

the common man rather than the wealthy. With the violent Red Sticks removed, it took much less courage to live in Tennessee, and rich people began flooding the state. Davy fought for land rights laws to benefit those who paved the way for these wealthy newcomers to comfortably move in.

Known for his storytelling skills, Davy spun wonderful tales of his time on the frontier, making him the unofficial **spokesperson** for his fellow frontiersmen. He was a great speaker and wasn't afraid to stand up for what he believed in... even when it cost him everything.



VOTE FOR DAVY CROCKETT

SOUTHEAST & TEXAS ANIMALS



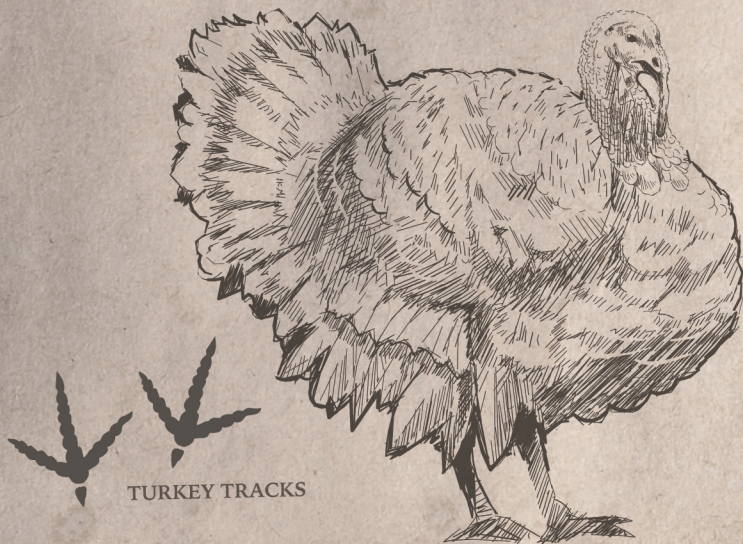
EASTERN
CORAL SNAKE

A snake species that is endemic, meaning only found in, the southeastern United States. There are other species of coral snakes found elsewhere in the Americas and the Caribbean. The eastern coral is highly venomous and consists of three colors, black, red, and yellow. Other species of snakes mimic the same coloration of the eastern coral, so children are often taught the following rhyme to distinguish which ones are safe or dangerous: "Red and yellow can kill a fellow; red and black is a friend of Jack."



NORTH AMERICAN RACCOON

A small mammal that is commonly found throughout North America. These mammals are known for the black mask around their eyes and their bushy, ringed tails. They can be found in forest areas or cities, wherever there is an abundance of food for them to find. Raccoons are nocturnal, meaning they are active at night. They are also good swimmers and climbers. Davy Crockett was known for wearing a cap made from the hide of a raccoon.



WILD TURKEY

A large, plump bird with a long neck, small head, and wide tail. Their feathers can be bronze-green, white, and brown. The males are called "toms," and they tend to be bigger and have a distinctive gobbling sound they make! Females are called "hens," and they tend to be smaller and darker in coloration than males. Turkeys are native to the Americas and enjoy forest habitats where they can forage for nuts, berries, and insects. Though they are birds, they can only fly short distances and can run surprisingly fast—up to 25 miles per hour.

A FIELD GUIDE TO
**SOUTHEAST & TEXAS
PLANTS**



COTTON PLANT

A shrub that grows a soft, fluffy white fiber often used to make clothing or other textiles. It's a highly profitable crop and was widely grown in the American South during the 1800s after the invention of the cotton gin. Many cotton plantations during this time were worked by African American slaves.

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

An evergreen tree that is native to the southeastern United States. The tree tends to grow near bodies of water or swamps, reaching heights of up to 90-100 feet, sometimes more. It has green leaves and large, fragrant white flowers.



INDIAN PINK

A wildflower native to the southeastern and midwestern United States. It grows in moist, wooded areas or along streams. The flowers are comprised of a red tube that blooms with a yellow star shape at its tip. Native Americans commonly used this flower for its medicinal properties.

President Jackson, The Indian Removal Act, & Trail of Tears

Davy Crockett was not the only veteran of the Creek War to represent Tennessee as a politician in Washington D.C. General Jackson served as a U.S. Senator, and riding his enormous popularity and fame, the man the Red Sticks had called “Sharp Knife” became the nation’s 7th president in 1829.

During Crockett and Jackson’s time as political leaders, figuring out what to do with the Indians who lived in their home region of the American Southeast was an enormous challenge. Attracted to the rich and productive soils of Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia, waves of recent American settlers moved in at higher rates than ever before, and their continued push westward created tension. Indians who chose to maintain traditional native ways of living clashed—often violently—with settlers, and attacks on each other were frequent. However, many Indians decided to try and adopt American culture and follow American laws. Some were able to adapt to new ways of living and fit into American society, but racism towards Indians was common amongst whites, and many Indians suffered mistreatment no matter their efforts to follow American customs and laws.

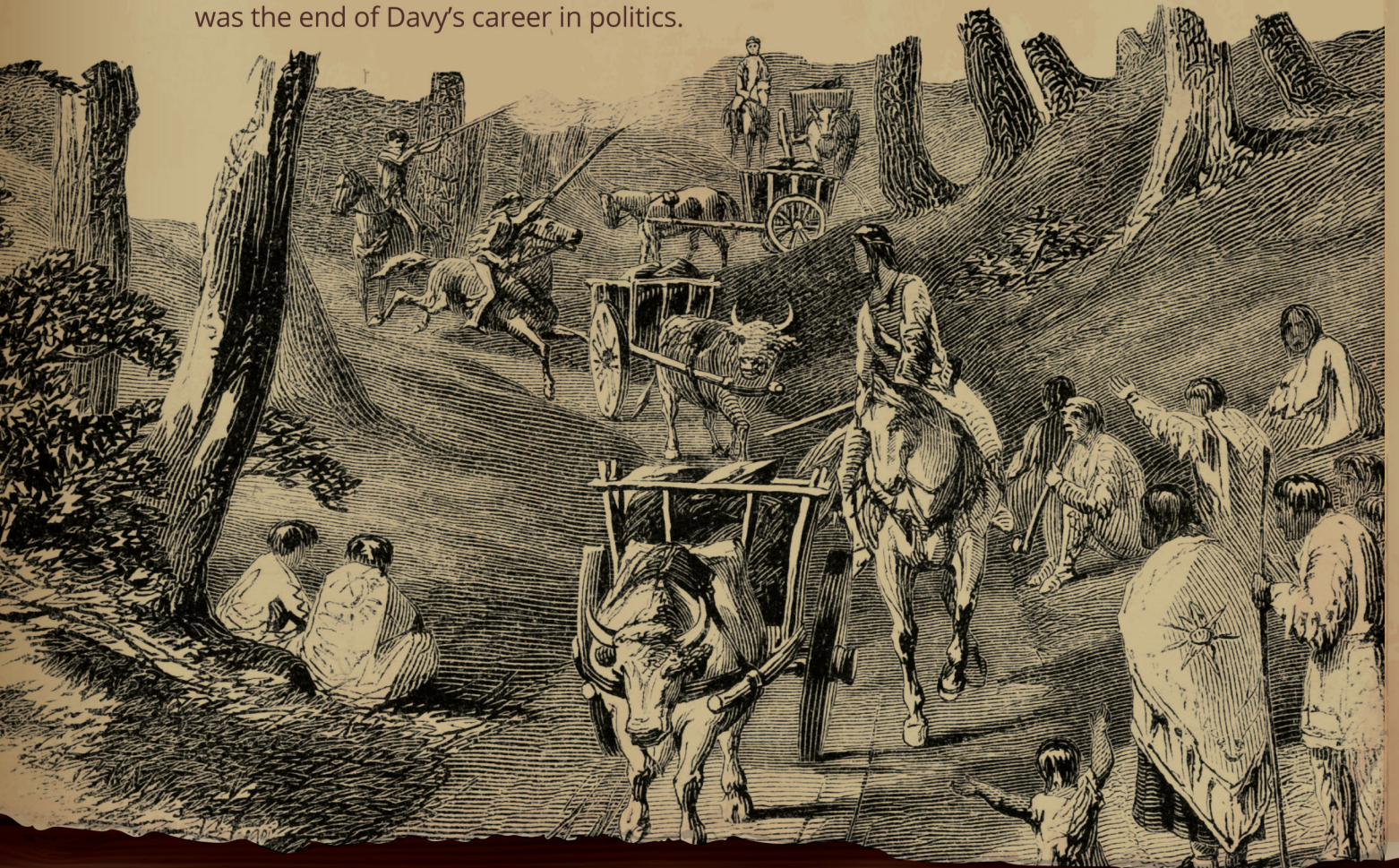
The Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Indians were known as the **Five Civilized Tribes**, and most of them had made peace treaties with the U.S. government. However, President Jackson did not believe the government had the resources to protect the Indians and prevent mistreatment from white settlers. Jackson’s solution was the **Indian Removal Act of 1830**, which offered lands west of the Mississippi River to Indian tribes in exchange for their lands in the Southeast. For those who left willingly, the government would pay them and cover transportation costs, and they could govern themselves in the lands reserved for

them out west. Those who declined the offer and remained in the Southeast would not only lose their land to the U.S. state authorities, but also have to abide by American laws.

Many Indians of the American Southeast moved voluntarily and took advantage of the U.S. government's relocation assistance, but some fought removal till the bitter end.

The Cherokees in particular tried fighting legally with lawsuits against the U.S. government. They had adopted many settler ways—such as writing a constitution, opening schools, owning black slaves, and even having a newspaper in their own language—but their efforts were not enough. The U.S. Supreme Court also recognized Cherokee independence and **sovereignty** from state authority, but the ruling was ignored. The U.S. military eventually forced the Cherokee to relocate, and their long, harsh journey westward became known as the **Trail of Tears**.

Whether willing or not, between 1830 and 1850, an estimated 100,000 Indians moved westward from the Southeast, and roughly 15,000 died along the way. Davy Crockett openly criticized Jackson's actions and disagreed with many policies enacted toward the Indians. Thanks to Jackson's heavy popularity and support, opposing him was political suicide, and Crockett lost popularity. He lost a re-election campaign in 1835, and that was the end of Davy's career in politics.



On to a New Frontier: Texas

In the 1820s and 30s, Texas was much like Tennessee had been when Davy was a child—a land with few people, fewer laws, and lots of opportunity. Texas was the northeast part of Mexican territory, but despite having an enormous amount of land good for farming and ranching, very few Mexicans lived there. This was largely because Texas was home to violent Indian tribes, including the especially ruthless **Comanche**, who were quick to terrorize those who dared settle on their hunting grounds.

The Mexican government hoped to pacify or push out the Indians who roamed freely in Texas, but they needed settlers to accomplish this. Not enough Mexican citizens were willing to take the risk it required, so the Mexican government turned to their eastern neighbor. Because of continued European immigration, America's population kept growing rapidly. States like Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri, which had once been the frontier, were getting increasingly crowded, and land became less affordable. The frontier was now further west, and so to help with their Indian problem, Mexico began offering land in Texas to Americans brave (or crazy) enough to settle it.

Whether desperate for land, freedom, or both, Mexico's offer was attractive to many, and people began crossing into Texas from America. Indian raids were common, but settlers kept coming. For about a decade, the relationship between new Texans and the Mexican government was relatively smooth.

In 1833, Mexico elected Antonio López de Santa Anna as president, and he began making drastic changes. He abolished Mexico's **Constitution of 1824**, centralized power, and reduced people's freedoms—including those who had moved to Texas from America. The changes upset many Texans, and rumors of fighting for independence began to swirl. Always on the lookout for opportunity and never one to shy away from a fight, Davy Crockett made his way to Texas.

*"Colonel, here am I.
Assign me to a
position and I, and
my 12 boys, will
try to defend it."*

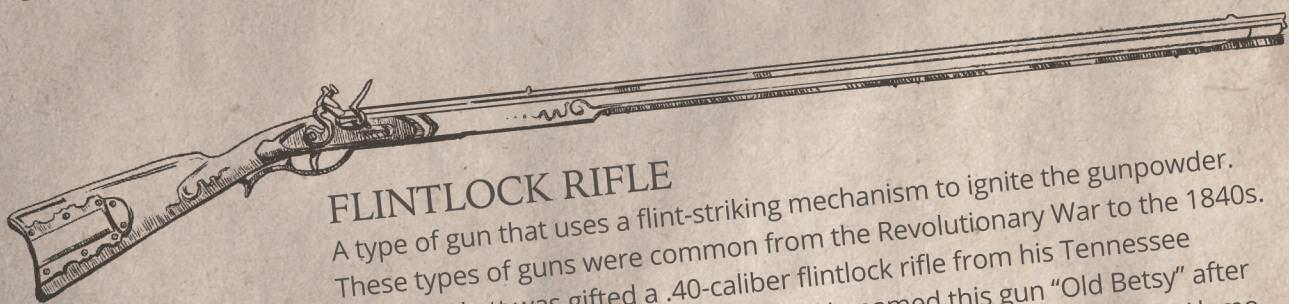
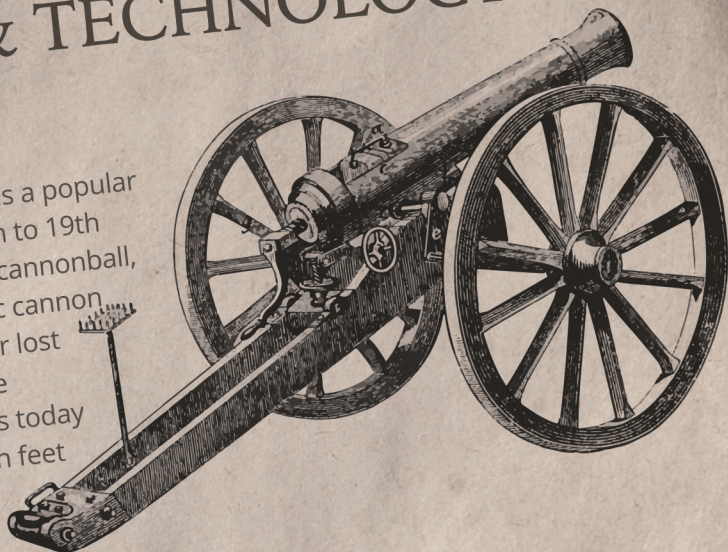
*—Crockett to Colonel William B. Travis
during the Battle of the Alamo*



A FIELD GUIDE TO SOUTHEAST & TEXAS WEAPONRY & TECHNOLOGY

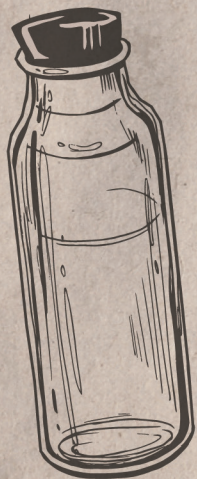
18-POUNDER CANNON

Also known as the 18-pounder long gun, this was a popular weapon used by European navies from the 17th to 19th centuries. It was capable of firing an 18-pound cannonball, thus giving it its name. This was the most iconic cannon used in the Battle of the Alamo, and it was later lost to history. The Alamo Museum was able to use historical records to create a replica that exists today for people to visit. The replica measures seven feet eight inches long and weighs 2,000 pounds.



FLINTLOCK RIFLE

A type of gun that uses a flint-striking mechanism to ignite the gunpowder. These types of guns were common from the Revolutionary War to the 1840s. Davy Crockett was gifted a .40-caliber flintlock rifle from his Tennessee constituents during his time in politics. He named this gun "Old Betsy" after his wife or sister, and he left the rifle with his son before going to the Alamo.



BATEMAN'S DROPS

Also known as Dr. Bateman's Pectoral Drops, this was a common remedy for colds, fevers, and other aches and pains in Great Britain and North America from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Crockett wrote in his autobiography about being very ill and staying with a stranger who gave him these drops. The stranger thought he was going to die and was shocked when Crockett started to get better. In fact, word had already spread to his family that he had died, so when Crockett returned home after recovering, his family thought he'd been resurrected!



DID DAVY CROCKETT WEAR A RACCOON CAP?

Davy Crockett's raccoon cap was popularized mostly by actors who played him in creative performances. Fess Parker, who played Crockett in a Disney TV series about the frontiersman in the 1950s, wore a raccoon cap as part of his costume.

Raccoon caps were first worn by American Indians as part of their traditional clothing, but early American settlers took an interest in them, too. In areas like Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, they became a popular hunting cap. Later, the caps would become a symbol of the frontier.

Davy Crockett likely wore one, as it was common hunting attire, and he might even have worn one to boost his reputation. As a politician for the frontiersmen, there was a certain image he had to maintain. The cap was part of that image and helped him stay politically relevant to the people he served. His daughter Matilda recalled that her father was wearing the cap the last time she saw him before he went to Texas.



Battle of the Alamo

The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas, March 1836

Davy awoke to shouts and gunfire. It was still dark out, but the coal-black sky was slowly shifting to the blue-gray light of dawn. He raced to his post and climbed the wall to get a better view of the commotion.

Santa Anna and the Mexican Army were advancing. *How did the sentries miss this?* Not a single warning had been issued. Davy lifted his gun, took aim, and began firing. Even in the murky light, his shots hit with deadly accuracy.

Breathe in, hold, pull—reload. Breathe in, hold, pull...

His muscles were moving on memory and habit, and each Mexican that met Davy's aim met their maker. All his years in the woods and his time in the Creek War had prepared him for this. His body knew what to do in the face of danger. In the back of his mind, Davy knew they were outnumbered at least ten to one, but fear didn't register. Adrenaline coursed through him as he took out the enemy one by one. The Mexicans marched in columns, making them big, slow-moving targets—but there were so many of them...

For 12 days, the Mexican Army had remained at a distance, but after almost two weeks of standoffs and minor skirmishes, the battle was finally here. Now, it was time to see what these boastful Texans were made of.

"North wall!" someone shouted in a panic. "They've breached the north wall!"

Davy spun around and saw the enemy soldiers climbing onto the fort's protective wall, overwhelming the few men stationed there. *Here we go. This is it...*

Davy didn't freeze or try to run away and hide. He charged into battle, determined to fend off his attackers. He believed in the oath he had signed, and like those who had fought for freedom before him, he would fight against tyranny until his last breath.

Texan War for Independence

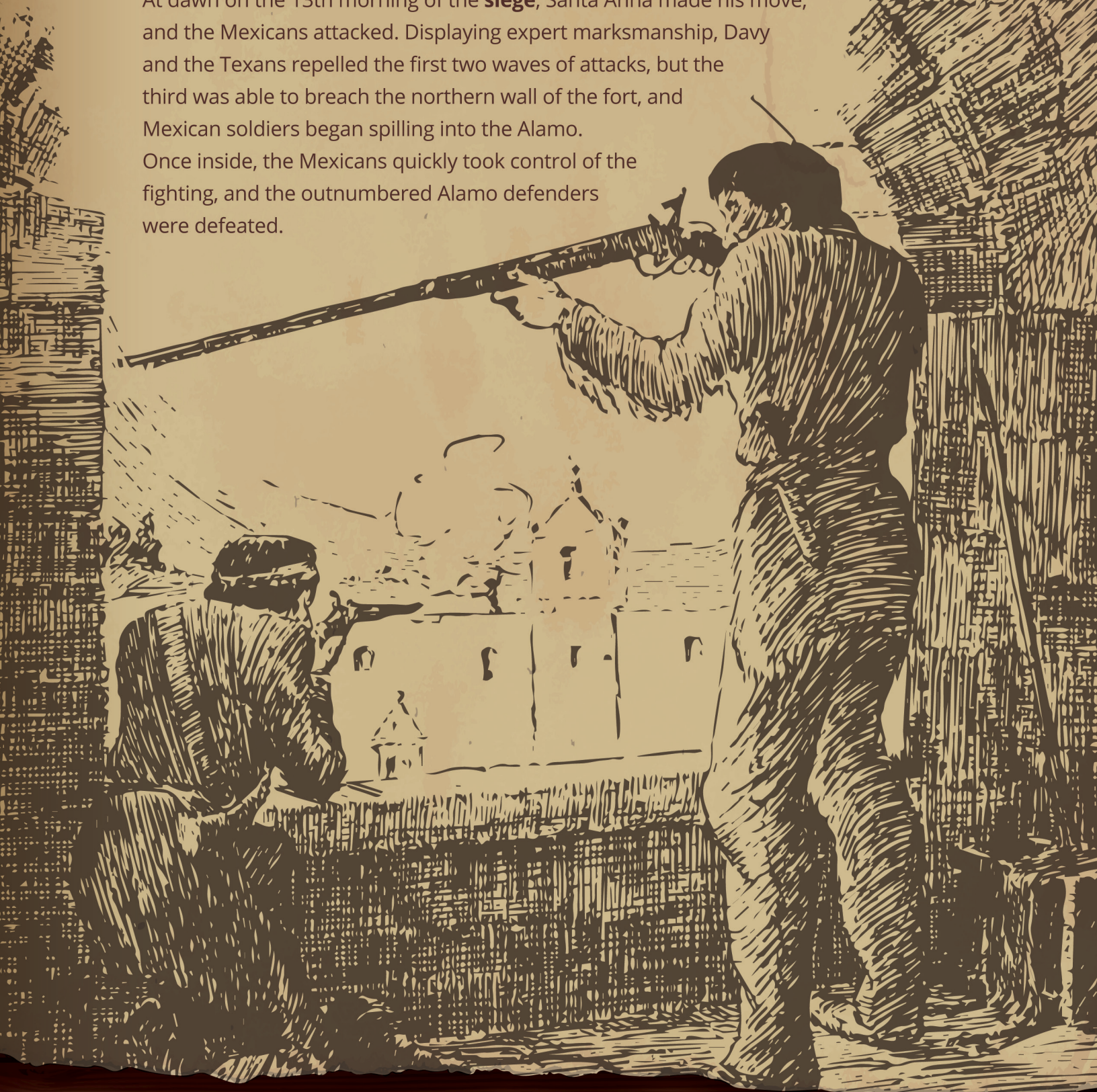
On October 2, 1835, the **Texas Revolution** began when shots were fired in the town of Gonzalez. It was a rebellion against the **Centralist Republic of Mexico** by colonists who had moved in from the United States, and Hispanic Texans called Tejanos. Not long after fighting began, Davy arrived in Texas with a group of about 30 volunteer fighters from Tennessee. For their service, the men were each promised 4,600 acres of Texas land, but before the agreement was official, they were required to sign an oath of allegiance. The oath read, "To the Provisional Government of Texas or any future republican Government that may hereafter be dared."

Crockett had the word "republican" inserted before he would sign. Davy would only support a new government if it was a **republic**; he wouldn't serve a tyrannical system where people had no control over how they were governed.

Once an official member of the **Texian Army**, Davy made his way to San Antonio to help reinforce an area the Texans had captured a few months before. Texian Army leadership viewed San Antonio as the gateway to the frontier and, therefore, a strategically important location for victory. With Davy among San Antonio's defenders, the Texans numbered about 200 fighting men. Unfortunately, the Mexican Army also valued the location, and more than 2,000 soldiers, led by President Santa Anna himself, were on their way to try and take it.

When Santa Anna and his forces arrived in San Antonio, the Texans were severely outnumbered and unprepared. In response to the Mexicans' arrival, they took cover inside a walled military fort called **the Alamo**, which had been built around an old Spanish mission. The Alamo was well fortified, including 18 cannons, but the Mexicans were easily able to completely surround the Texans and keep them inside. For 12 days, the Mexicans waited and plotted their attack, and during that time, Santa Anna ordered a red flag be raised, telling those inside the Alamo that none would be shown mercy.

At dawn on the 13th morning of the **siege**, Santa Anna made his move, and the Mexicans attacked. Displaying expert marksmanship, Davy and the Texans repelled the first two waves of attacks, but the third was able to breach the northern wall of the fort, and Mexican soldiers began spilling into the Alamo. Once inside, the Mexicans quickly took control of the fighting, and the outnumbered Alamo defenders were defeated.



A Heroic Ending

Along with each of his fellow Texian soldiers, Davy Crockett died a hero in the Battle of the Alamo, but historians debate exactly how and when it happened. Some eyewitnesses claim he was killed while fighting inside the mission, while other accounts say he was among the survivors that General Santa Anna ordered to be executed after the battle. Regardless of the circumstances, Davy and the other brave men who defended the Alamo made history that day.

The brutal events of the Alamo pushed the Texans to fight even harder for their freedom. "Remember the Alamo" became their rallying cry, and only six weeks later, the Texans were able to secure their independence at the **Battle of San Jacinto**. The capture of General Santa Anna brought the war to an end, and true to their agreement with Davy, the **REPUBLIC of Texas** was born.

Texas remained an independent nation for nearly a decade before joining the United States, and the Alamo became a symbol of bravery in the fight against tyranny and oppression. This formative time of Texas history continues to bring pride to its people, and the state of Texas remains a strong beacon of independence within the United States to this day.

As for Davy Crockett, his story lives on, not just for his courageous efforts at the Alamo but for his larger-than-life frontier days. Throughout his life, Davy followed his restless spirit and sought to help the common man. He didn't get rich or become president, but he always fought for what he believed was right. Even when it wasn't popular and even when it cost him his life in battle. His resilient, unwavering spirit reminds us that the battle for freedom is always worth fighting.

INTERESTING FACTS



Davy claimed he killed 105 bears in about 7 months, from 1825-1826. This helped solidify his reputation as “King of the Wild Frontier.”



In 1833, a man published a book titled *Sketches and Eccentricities of Colonel David Crockett of West Tennessee*. The book was said to be authored by Crockett himself, but it turned out to be outrageous stories and tall tales. In response, Crockett published his own autobiography in 1834 to set the record straight on his life stories. *Sketches and Eccentricities* was one of several false accounts of Crockett’s life and contributed to the tales of Davy rather than David Crockett.



Davy was the model for a character in the popular *Lion of the West* play that opened in New York in 1831. This helped to grow his fame.



Glossary

Alamo: A Spanish mission near San Antonio, Texas, that was later turned into a military fort. It is also the site of the Battle of the Alamo, where a small group of Texan and American rebels lost their lives to the Mexican Army during the Texan Revolution. Today, the Alamo is a historic site and museum.

Battle of San Jacinto: The final battle of the Texan Revolution, which took place on April 21, 1836. General Sam Houston led his army of around 900 men against General Santa Anna's troops of about 1,300 men. The battle only lasted 18 minutes, with Texas securing the victory.

Battle of Talladega: A battle that took place during the Creek War on November 9, 1813. General Andrew Jackson received word that their Creek allies in Talladega were being surrounded by the Red Sticks and needed aid. Jackson, along with the Tennessee Militia, arrived in time to fight the Red Stick warriors off.

Battle of Tallushatchee: A battle that took place during the Creek War and the War of 1812 on November 3, 1813. Colonel Coffee, on the orders of Andrew Jackson, took his militia to attack the town of Tallushatchee, where there was a strong number of Red Sticks. The Americans completely destroyed the town, and it was significant for being the first military victory for the Americans in the Creek War.

Centralist Republic of Mexico: The government that existed in Mexico in the 1830s and 40s. It was plagued by tyrannical rule, infighting, and the defeat during the Mexican-American War.

Comanche Tribe: A tribe that lived in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma during the 18th and 19th centuries. They were known for being fierce warriors and hunters and for having a nomadic lifestyle.

Constitution of 1824: Mexico's first constitution, enacted on October 4, 1824, after they gained their independence from Spain. It modeled Spain's and American constitutions, establishing the new nation as a republic that set up many democratic goals.

Creek Tribe: Also known as the Muscogee Nation for the language that they spoke. This tribe populated the American South, mainly Georgia and Alabama, during the 18th century. Their lifestyle consisted mainly of hunting and farming. Eventually, they left or were forcibly moved to present-day Oklahoma with the passing of the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

Creek War: A regional conflict in the U.S. South from 1813-1814. The Creek tribe split over the issue of white settlers encroaching on their land and culture, leading them into civil war. This led to American involvement when a militant faction called the Red Sticks attacked a settler fort. A series of battles over the course of a year led to U.S. victory, and the Creeks had to give up 22 million acres of their land in Georgia and Alabama.

Five Civilized Tribes: The Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw tribes. These tribes were originally located in the southeastern U.S. states and, in hopes of remaining, took on many practices and cultural traditions of white settlers. However, all five tribes were forced to move west and settle in the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).



Glossary

Fort Mims: A fortified homestead in Alabama that was built around a plantation belonging to a man named Samuel Mims. Settlers, mixed Creeks, and black slaves took refuge in the fort before the attack on Fort Mims.

Indian Removal Act of 1830: The act signed into law by President Andrew Jackson that allowed him to negotiate treaties to move the Indians in the southeastern U.S. to lands west of the Mississippi River. These treaties offered the Indians payment for transportation and getting started in the new territory. Those who wouldn't negotiate or move voluntarily were later forced to relocate by the U.S. military.

Militia: A group of regular citizens who train for military service, usually to defend their homes or country.

Red Sticks: A militant group of the Creek tribe that resisted white settlement and assimilation into colonial culture. They got their name from the red sticks or war clubs they used in battle.

Republic: A system of government in which power ultimately comes from the people. In this system, the people usually exercise that power by electing representatives to vote for laws and a president to enforce those laws. The power of the government in a republic is limited and exists to protect the rights of the people.

Republic of Texas: An independent nation with a republican government. Texas gained independence in 1836 and ruled itself for nearly a decade before joining the United States in 1845.

Scalping: The violent act of removing the skin and hair from the top of a victim's head. The practice was usually carried out with a knife.

Siege: A military attack method in which an armed force tries to take over a fortified city or town. The main tactic of a siege is cutting off the supplies to the city or town in the hopes of forcing those inside to surrender.

Sovereignty: The power or authority of a state to govern itself.

Spokesperson: A person who speaks for another individual, group, or organization.

Texas Revolution: The conflict between Texas and Mexico during the 1830s, in which Texas rebelled against the centralization of Mexican authority over its territory. Texas won its independence after six months of fighting, forming the Republic of Texas until it later joined the United States.

Texian Army: The land warfare branch of the rebels during the Texas Revolution. Texian was the name given to white American settlers in Mexican Texas.

Trail of Tears: The forced relocation, from 1830-1850, of the "Five Civilized Tribes" from their native lands in the Southeast to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi. Thousands died on the way due to lack of supplies, disease, and harsh weather conditions.

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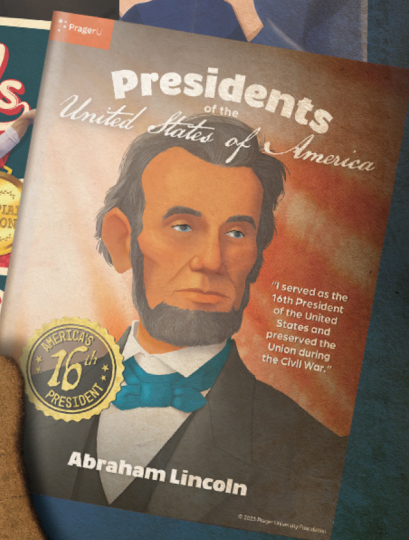
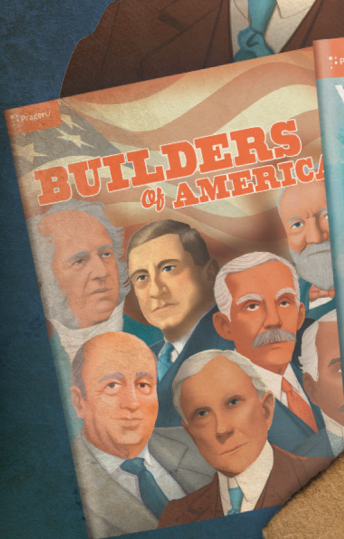


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