



# Legends of the Frontier: Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie

*Charles River Editors*

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\*Discusses some of the legends and controversies surrounding the lives and deaths of the three frontier legends.

\*Includes the story about Crockett's famous Not Yours To Give speech, and the debate over whether he actually gave it.

\*Includes pictures of Boone, Bowie, Crockett and other important people and places in their lives.

\*Includes a Bibliography on each man for further reading.

The Wild West and the frontier have long held a special place in the narrative of American history, and all of the legends and folk heroes who lived in the 19th century owe their reputation to the original American frontier folk hero, Daniel Boone. Boone was literally a trailblazer: the legendary pioneer established his Wilderness Road by striking west into present-day Kentucky and establishing Boonesborough, one of the earliest white settlements west of the Appalachians. Hundreds of thousands of settlers would follow his path by the end of the 18th century.

While that was an important and proud legacy for the former Revolutionary War militiaman and Virginia State Assemblyman, Boone became known for the outsized tales and adventures associated with his foray into the frontier. Far and wide, people spoke of Boone's expert marksmanship, his encounters with wild bears, and his hardscrabble frontier life, making him a living legend and the prototypical Western frontier folk hero in America.

Following right in Boone's path was "The King of the Wild Frontier", Davy Crockett. Also a living legend in his own life. Crockett was a hardscrabble frontiersman who could spin a good yarn but who also took a no-nonsense approach that brought him from the backwoods of Tennessee to the halls of Congress. Though he served during the presidency of another Westerner, Andrew Jackson, Crockett was very much his own man, and he was distrustful of other politicians, a sentiment that has only endeared him further to subsequent generations of Americans.

Jim Bowie he was known across America in his lifetime for a controversy other than the Battle of the Alamo. In what became known as the notorious Sandbar Fight of 1827, a duel between two men turned into a large fight that included Bowie, who was shot and stabbed during the melee but still managed to stab to death the sheriff of Rapides Parish in Louisiana with a large knife that has since become universally known as the Bowie knife.

Jim Bowie was famous in his lifetime, but like Crockett it was his death in Texas that made him an American legend. Though there is still some mystery and controversy surrounding exactly what transpired at the Battle of the Alamo, the deaths of Crockett, Bowie, William B. Travis and the rest of the defenders at the hands of Santa Anna's Mexican soldiers became a symbol of sacrifice and defiance, and the battle itself became a rallying cry throughout the rest of Texas' War for Independence. Naturally, it also cemented the legacies of both Bowie and Crockett as well.

Legends of the Frontier chronicles the life, myths and legends of the three frontier legends, examining the known and unknown in an attempt to separate fact from fiction. Along with pictures of important people and places, you will learn about Boone, Crockett and Bowie like you never have before, in no time at all.

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