

Sam Houston (10/30/2021)

Have you ever been to Houston, Texas? Have you ever wondered how Houston got its name? Well, the city of Houston is named after Sam Houston, who was one of the influential people that fought in the Revolutionary War and was the first president of the Republic of Texas.

Sam Houston was born in Virginia on March 2, 1793. He grew up working on his father's farm with his four older brothers and three younger sisters. After his father died in 1807 when Sam was thirteen years old, his family moved to a farm in Tennessee.

Sam did not like working on the Tennessee farm with his brothers, so he ran away and went to live with a local Cherokee tribe. He was given the name "Black Rave" by the tribe. Sam enjoyed hunting and living with the Cherokee for several years as he learned their language and their way of life. He later returned home but continued communicating with the Cherokee.

In 1813, Sam joined the U.S. army and fought in the War of 1812. Sam was a natural leader and was noticed by General Andrew Jackson. In the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Sam was one of the first soldiers to charge the enemy by jumping over a barricade. During that battle, he was shot several times. He was even shot by an arrow that bothered him for the rest of his life.

After the war General Andrew Jackson gave Sam a job working with the Cherokee. In 1818, Sam helped the Cherokee move from Tennessee to the Arkansas Territory. At this time, he also studied to be a lawyer and opened a law practice in Nashville in 1818. In 1823, Sam was elected to the United States Congress as a representative from Tennessee. By 1827, he was elected governor of the state of Tennessee. Two years later, Sam resigned his office and went to live with the Cherokee in the Arkansas Territory. For the next three years he traded with the Native Americans and helped them fight to be better treated by the government.

In 1832 he met with Andrew Jackson, who was now president, and they agreed he would move to Texas to a town called Nacogdoches. At that time, Texas was part of Mexico, but many people did not like that. Many of the people living in Texas wanted it to become a separate country. Santa Anna, who was the president of Mexico, and he did not agree that Texas should gain its independence from Mexico. In October 1835, the Texan and Mexican began to fight at the Battle of Gonzales, which began the Texas Revolution. Sam became commander in chief of

the Texan army. Sam signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836, and led his troops to victory at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. General Houston dictated the terms of peace with Santa Anna and determined the boundaries of Texas.

Sam's reputation and the win at the Battle of San Jacinto helped him win as President of the Republic of Texas in 1836 and again in 1841. In 1845, Texas joined the Union and from 1846 to 1851, Sam became a senator. In 1859 he became governor of Texas. Because he was against Texas leaving the United States and joining the Confederacy, he was removed from office. He moved with his family to Huntsville, Texas. Later he died of pneumonia on July 28, 1863, at the age of 70. In honor of Sam Houston, the Allen brothers decided to name establish a town and named it Houston.